



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Chief Probation Officer
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Mental Health
Superintendent of Schools

At its meeting held February 14, 2006, the Board took the following action:

S-1

Jose Huizar, Chair of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) and Councilmember for the City of Los Angeles, Michael Nash, Vice Chair of the ECC and Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Juvenile Division, Berisha Black, Vice Chair of the ECC and Emancipation Ombudsman and former foster youth, and Sharon G. Watson, Ph.D., Lead Consultant for the ECC, presented the attached report entitled, "Expecting More: A Blueprint for Raising the Educational Achievement of Foster Youth and Probation Youth."

After discussion, the following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky:

"On November 3, 2004, the Board authorized the creation of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) to improve educational outcomes for youth in the foster care and probation systems. They charged the Council with developing a blueprint for raising their educational attainment. Since then, the ECC has built awareness of the achievement gap for these youth within the communities of Los Angeles County and strategic partnerships for addressing it, took a series of actions that helped connect youth to available programs and services and engaged hundreds of individuals and organizations in developing the 'Expecting More: A Blueprint for Raising the Educational Achievement of Foster and Probation Youth' (Blueprint).

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“This Blueprint identifies 7 basic agreements that need to be adopted by agencies, organizations, and constituent groups responsible for the educational achievement of foster and probation youth. It also identifies 12 program and accountability recommendations to improve the educational success of these youth. The Blueprint’s basic tenet is that the responsibility for changing the unacceptably low educational performance of the children and youth under Los Angeles County’s supervision is shared, and the Blueprint outlines the role and responsibilities of key individuals, groups and agencies for making a positive difference.”

Therefore, Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky made a recommendation that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt the Education Coordinating Council’s (ECC) Blueprint, including its 7 basic agreements for those responsible for the educational success of foster and probation youth, and the 12 program and accountability recommendations for improving the educational achievement of these youth;
2. Direct the ECC, in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools, to convene a meeting of all school district Superintendents in the County in order to provide a briefing of the Blueprint and create strategies for implementing the recommendations pertinent to the school districts; and
3. Direct the ECC to report back to the Board every six months on the progress made in implementing the recommendations identified in the Blueprint.

Supervisor Knabe made a suggestion that Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky’s aforementioned recommendation be amended to direct the Director of Children and Family Services and Chief Probation Officer to report to the Board on how they can respond to Recommendation No. 2, page 11, of the attached report, as it relates to caregivers. Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisor Knabe’s amendment.

After further discussion, Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“I would like to make a proposal in order to advance the goals of the Education Coordinating Council’s ‘Expecting More: A Blueprint for Raising the Educational Achievement of Foster Youth and Probation Youth.’”

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S-1 (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Molina made a suggestion to further amend Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky's recommendation to direct the following departments take the actions as detailed below and report back to the Board by April 4, 2006:

1. Direct the Director of Children and Family Services, Chief Probation Officer, Director of Mental Health, and the Superintendent of Schools, to report with a specific plan to implement the ECC Blueprint;
2. Direct the Director of Children and Family Services to report on whether they have begun requesting individual orders in each child's Juvenile Dependency case enabling the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain educational information from the school districts, and if not, why not;
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer, County Counsel, Director of Children and Family Services and Chief Probation Officer to draft a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on a proposed legislative amendment to improve social workers' access to educational information under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and
4. Direct the Director of Children and Family Services and Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board of Supervisors with a proposal to make the ECC's proposed Educational Case Plan process meaningful, detailing how the departments will ensure that each child's plan is implemented.

Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment.

On motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Education Coordinating Council's (ECC) Blueprint, including its 7 basic agreements for those responsible for the educational success of foster and probation youth, and the 12 program and accountability recommendations for improving the educational achievement of these youth;

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S-1 (Continued)

2. Directed the ECC, in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools, to convene a meeting of all school district Superintendents in the County in order to provide a briefing of the Blueprint and create strategies for implementing the recommendations pertinent to the school districts;
3. Directed the ECC to report back to the Board every six months on the progress made in implementing the recommendations identified in the Blueprint;
4. Directed the Director of Children and Family Services and Chief Probation Officer to report to the Board on how they can respond to Recommendation No. 2, page 11, of the attached report, as it relates to caregivers; and
5. Directed the following departments take the actions as detailed below and report back to the Board by April 4, 2006:
 - Directed the Director of Children and Family Services, Chief Probation Officer, Director of Mental Health, and the Superintendent of Schools, to report with a specific plan to implement the ECC Blueprint;
 - Directed the Director of Children and Family Services to report on whether they have begun requesting individual orders in each child's Juvenile Dependency case enabling the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain educational information from the school districts, and if not, why not;
 - Directed the Chief Administrative Officer, County Counsel, Director of Children and Family Services and Chief Probation Officer to draft a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on a proposed legislative amendment to improve social workers' access to educational information under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and

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S-1 (Continued)

- Directed the Director of Children and Family Services and Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board of Supervisors with a proposal to make the ECC's proposed Educational Case Plan process meaningful, detailing how the departments will ensure that each child's plan is implemented.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

Letter sent to:

Lead Consultant, Education Coordinating Council